

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1 and 12 have been amended. Claims 1-16 and 18-20 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC 102

Claims 1-16 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Park et al. (US 5,664,437) (hereinafter "Park").

Park discusses a cool-air duct for refrigerators. In Park, the cool-air distribution apparatus 17 is installed in the horizontally central portion of the rear wall 3W of the refrigerating compartment 3. The upper portion of the cool-air distribution apparatus 17 is positioned on the back wall of the third compartment 9, while the middle and lower portions of the cool-air distribution apparatus 17 are positioned on the back wall of the refrigerating compartment 3 between the third compartment 9 and the vegetable compartment 10. That is, the upper end of the cool-air distribution apparatus 17 is placed adjacent to the intermediate wall 1, and the lower end thereof is placed adjacent to the vegetable compartment 10. The entire height of the cool-air distribution apparatus 17 equals approximately that of the refrigerating compartment 3 plus the third compartment 9. Park, 5:17-5:31 and Figure 5.

Further in Park, the cool-air distribution apparatus 17, includes a front plate 24 made from a synthetic resin, a cool-air duct 25 which is made from an insulated material and assembled with the front plate 24, and a seal plate 34 covering the back surface of the cool-air duct 25. A swing wing 26 is detachably provided at the forefront surface of the cool-air duct 25. At the upper end of the swing wing 26 a motor 28 for rotating the swing wing 26 is provided. The motor 28, seated on a motor case 29, is installed in the upper portion of the front plate 24. On each side end of the motor 28 an indoor lamp 30 is mounted. Numeral 31 indicates the lamp cover for protecting the lamp. A position sensing switch 32 for controlling the rotation position of the swing wing 26 which is turned "on/off" by a protuberance 33 is provided on the upper end of the swing wing 26. A cool-air discharge grill 27 is detachably assembled to the front plate 24 for protection of the swing wing 26. The grill 27 prevents foodstuffs, housed in the compartment 3, from interrupting the rotation of the swing wing 26. Park, 5:32-5:51 and Figure 6.

Claims 1-11

Amended claim 1 recites: "...a lamp unit mounted in an upper part of the main body and comprising a lamp and a lamp case, the lamp case extending from the rear of the main body to a front of the storing compartment of the main body; and a second cool air duct which is formed in an upper part of the lamp case to communicate with the first cool air duct and allows cool air flowing through the first cool air duct to flow out at the front of the storing compartment of the main body." Support for this amendment may be found in at least Figures 2-5 of the present application. In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that the cool air duct 25 discussed in Park discharges air that indirectly cools the front of the compartment. Amended claim 1 recites that a cool air duct formed in the lamp case allows cool air to flow out at the front of the storage compartment. As such, in its amended form, in the refrigerator of claim 1, the front of the storage compartment is directly cooled. It is respectfully submitted that this feature patentably distinguishes over Park.

Further, the technical feature of claim 1 that allows for direct cooling of the front of the storage compartment while placing the second cooling duct in the lamp case provides a refrigerator that can maintain uniform temperature distribution of the storing compartment and increases space usage efficiency. In a conventional refrigerator, such as the one discussed in Park, cool air flows out from the rear of the storing compartment through the cool air duct into the storing compartment, which causes a temperature difference between the front and the rear of the storing compartment. As such, uniform temperature distribution cannot be maintained and cooling efficiency is lowered. This is particularly true when the refrigerator door is opened and closed, making the temperature difference between the front and the rear of the storing compartment increase significantly.

Claims 2-11 depend on claim 1 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

Claims 12-20

Amended claim 12 recites: "...a lamp unit mounted above the storage compartment, to light the storage compartment when the door is open, the lamp unit extending from a rear of the storage compartment to a front of the storage compartment; a cool air duct contiguous with the lamp unit wherein the cool air flowing from the plurality of refrigeration components is discharged

to a front of the storage compartment by the cool air duct.” Support for this amendment may be found in at least Figures 2-5 of the present application. In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that the front of the front of the lamp unit has not been declared. It is respectfully submitted that the present amendment to claim 12 corrects this deficiency. It is further respectfully noted that the cool air duct 25 discussed in Park discharges air which only indirectly cools the front of the compartment, as noted in the Office Action. Amended claim 12 recites that the cool air flowing from the plurality of refrigeration components is discharged to a front of the storage compartment by the cool air duct. As such, in its amended form, in the refrigerator of claim 12, the front of the storage compartment is directly cooled. It is respectfully submitted that this feature patentably distinguishes over Park.

Further, the technical feature of claim 12 that allows for direct cooling of the front of the storage compartment while placing the second cooling duct in the lamp case provides a refrigerator that can maintain uniform temperature distribution of the storing compartment and increases space usage efficiency. In a conventional refrigerator, such as the one discussed in Park, cool air flows out from the rear of the storing compartment through the cool air duct into the storing compartment, which causes a temperature difference between the front and the rear of the storing compartment. As such, uniform temperature distribution cannot be maintained and cooling efficiency is lowered. This is particularly true when the refrigerator door is opened and closed, making the temperature difference between the front and the rear of the storing compartment increase significantly.

Claims 13-16 and 18-20 are dependent on claim 12 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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